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The Daily Mississippian

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# 5-STAR STUDDED RECRUITING CLASS

Ole Miss put together its best-ranked recruiting class in program history Wednesday, putting it in the top 10 of all four major recruiting services' class rankings, including a No. 2 finish, according to 247Sports.com.

BY MATT SIGLER  
mcsigler@olemiss.edu

When Hugh Freeze took over as head coach at Ole Miss, he said he had to get the Rebels out of the wilderness. Freeze said he had to get his team to be competitive week in and week out in the SEC and recruit at a high level.

This past season, Ole Miss

and Freeze accomplished part one, going 7-6 in his first season. On Wednesday, he completed the second part, landing 23 prospects that garnered the Rebels a spot in the top 10 in all four major recruiting services' class rankings, including the No. 2 recruiting class on 247sports.com and No. 5 class on ESPN – the best rankings in program history.

This year's class is highlighted by four five-star signees – defensive end Robert Nkemdiche, offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil, safety Antonio Conner and wide receiver Laquon Treadwell. Ole Miss also had six four-star recruits to help bolster the class to a place a Rebel recruiting class has never gone.

"Obviously we are thrilled today," Ole Miss head coach

Hugh Freeze said. "I just left the Quarterback Club meeting, and to just see the passion and energy of the Ole Miss people, we take a great sense of pride in knowing that we can bring joy to the Rebel faithful.

"It was thrilling to obviously finish strong today and the year-long plan that we had."

Freeze and his staff's year-long plan appeared to be just

the right thing to land their desired targets, and he had nothing but praise for his staff on the job they did in the recruiting process. However, a little added assistance from players did not go unnoticed by the head coach.

"Our staff, who I think we have some of the rising stars in this profession, and the way

See RECRUITING, PAGE 9

OLE MISS CRUISES PAST MISSISSIPPI STATE



FIVE-STAR SAFETY STAYS IN-STATE



NKEMDICHE HEADLINES HISTORIC CLASS





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COLUMN

Illinois governor  
has no solutions



BY TRENTON WINFORD  
tgwinford@bellsouth.net

The state of Illinois is really bleak, as Governor Pat Quinn delivered the State of the State address on Wednesday.

For starters, Illinois is facing a \$95 billion pension crisis to go on top of the nation’s worst budget ranking. Add gun crime in the state’s largest city, union strikes and a grumbling Democratic base, and things are not looking peachy for Illinois.

So what are Quinn’s ideas for solving a few of the problems facing his state? He aims to cripple businesses, restrict the Second Amendment and avoid all other issues.

Quinn asked legislators to increase Illinois’ minimum wage, one of the highest in the nation, from \$8.25 to \$10, almost a full \$3 above the federal rate. Needless to say, businesses are vehemently opposed to such an increase because it would increase their burden of employment. With Illinois’ unemployment rate being in the top five in the US, one would believe Quinn would push policies that would make it easier for businesses to hire employees.

Of course, Quinn points to data that suggest that full-time workers making minimum wage are living in poverty in Illinois. However, he fails to point out that Illinois’ income and sales taxes are among the highest in the nation, meaning that Illinois workers are taking home less than their counterparts in other states.

If Quinn is truly concerned about the state of Illinois and her workers, and not just pandering to the Democratic Party, then he would recommend policies in the opposite direction. After all, when something does not work after many years, pushing even further

See ILLINOIS, PAGE 3

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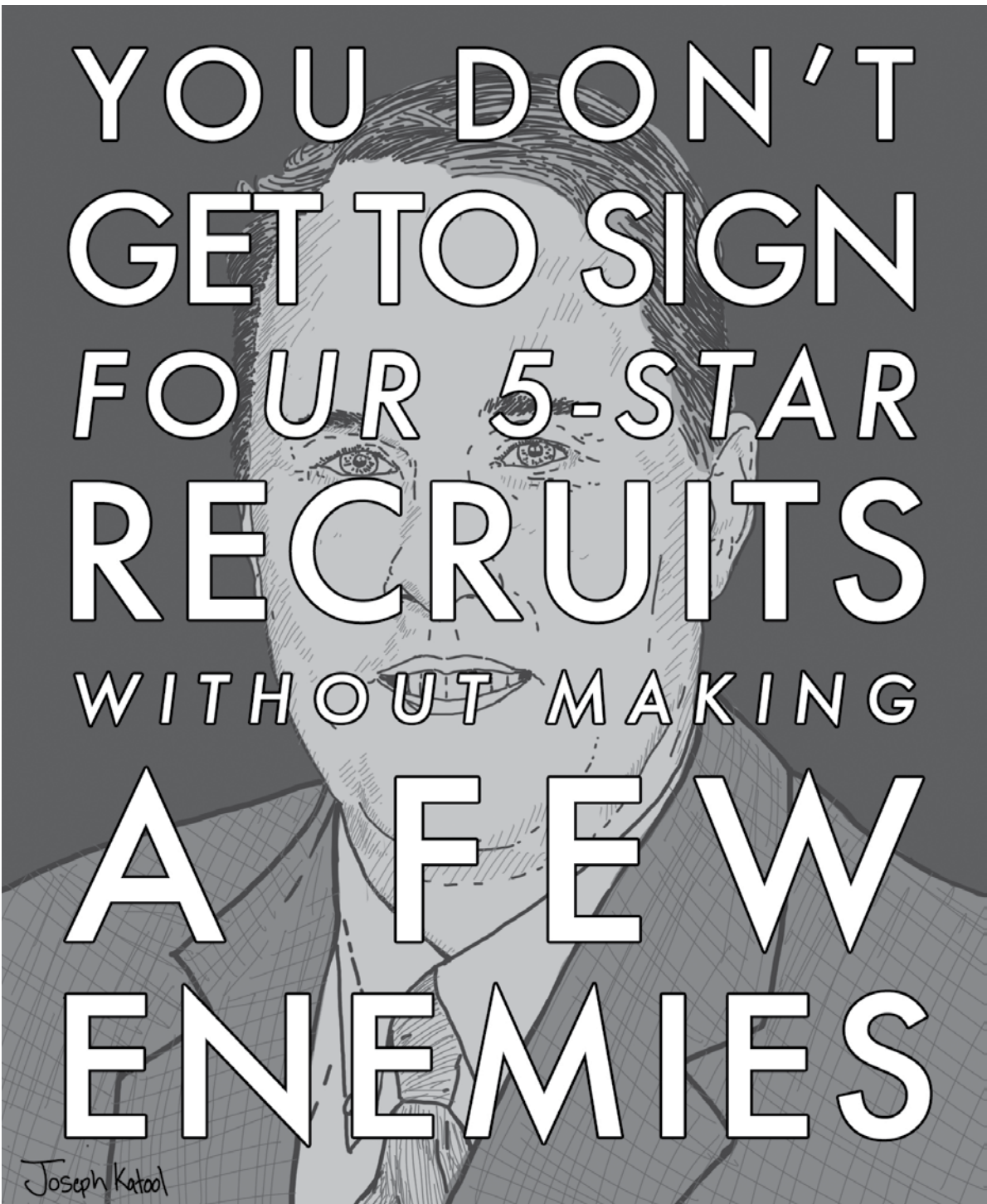
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JOSEPH KATOOL | @katoolbag | The Daily Mississippian

COLUMN

Lessons of the Superdome blackout?



BY WANFEI WU  
www@go.olemiss.edu

Last Sunday night millions of people were watching the Super Bowl. My professor gave me an assignment to watch it and write down my favorite commercial. This was the first time I had ever watched the Super Bowl.

At first, I just paid attention to the commercials because of the assignment.

I didn’t totally understand the rules of football. so it was hard to engage in the game itself.

After several touchdowns, I began to understand some of the rules and started to enjoy the game itself. Beyonce’s fabulous halftime show was very exciting, and the commercials were excellent.

I really appreciated my professor giving me the opportunity to watch the game, but while I was watching, there was a sudden blackout in the Superdome.

I wondered at first if another show was starting,

then I heard a voice say the Superdome had lost power. I couldn’t believe a blackout had happened during such an important event – the most popular event in the nation.

After a while, half of the Superdome lit up. The audience was astonished.

Were Mardi Gras celebrations happening a little early in New Orleans this year? Some fans left the stadium. Cheerleaders were still leading the cheers. The players were sitting on the ground motionless. It was probably

See SUPERDOME, PAGE 3



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COLUMN

We might not be the ONLY entitled generation, but we are AN entitled one



BY LEXI THOMAN  
alexandria.thoman@gmail.com

We are an entitled generation. If any other Ole Miss student dares disagree with me, I need only point toward the Land Rovers and Mercedes-Benz convertibles sitting in dorm parking lots to illustrate my point. While I recognize that a few freshmen driving cars worth more than the average American household’s annual salary doesn’t exactly prove that our entire generation

is similarly spoiled, it certainly provides an interesting talking point with which to begin this column. Entitlement is not a measure in wealth, but a mindset. Many of us, myself included, don’t take the time to stop and appreciate just how good we’ve got it. I’m sitting with a cup of Starbucks coffee, typing on my Macbook Pro while listening to NPR on my iPhone 4. I’m worrying about finishing my senior thesis and applying for jobs instead of fretting about when my next paycheck comes in. Even though I have a part-time job and scholarships to carry me through the semester, I know that my parents wouldn’t hesitate to provide extra financial

support if they had to. Many Americans are not so fortunate. Every parent wants to give his or her children more than they had growing up. Every parent wants to see his or her son or daughter succeed. While none of this is a new phenomenon, there is definitely a palpable aura of entitlement that I have felt from my fellow representatives of Generation Y, and others have sensed it as well. While working at my internships, I have had the opportunity to speak with many seasoned professionals from all walks of life. One of my favorite questions to ask is this: “What are some of the biggest mistakes that you see college students

making in interviews?” Time and time again, their answers came back to our disproportionate sense of entitlement. “Instead of telling us why we should hire them,” one of my mentors told me last month, “they demand to know what we will do for them.” She went on to say that she has never hired someone who went into an interview with a privileged mindset, no matter how qualified he or she was. As we run between classes and stress about our coursework, we fail to remember that most Americans do not even have the luxury of a college education. Even though enrollment has increased over the decades, it is still an opportunity that we

shouldn’t take for granted. Nevertheless, many of us still do. While we shouldn’t have to apologize for how our parents raised us or the privileges we enjoy, a little tempered modesty and honest hard work can go a long way in changing the world’s perception of us. We certainly are not the first entitled generation in history, but it is up to us to make sure that we are not remembered as the worst. You might want to bear this in mind the next time you go into an interview. Lexi Thoman is a senior international studies and Spanish double-major from St. Louis, Mo.

SUPERDOME,  
continued from page 2

good for them because they had time to rest. Forty-five minutes later, full power was finally restored. This is not the first time power has gone off at a stadium during a football game, but it was the first time at a Super Bowl. What was the most memorable thing about Super Bowl XLVII? Beyonce or the blackout? Without a doubt it was the latter. People always forget the good things, while they are picky and ruthless when bad things happen. It’s a very similar situation to the Obama inauguration two weeks ago; what was the most “memorable” thing? Beyonce or President Obama? For many it was the former. Sometimes we can’t see the forest through the trees. If everything went well, there would be no more news for people to pay at-

tention to. However, sometimes we should remember there are consequences when these incidents happen. Who will be at fault over the Superdome power issue? There is no doubt that some people will lose their jobs over this. However, everyone makes mistakes; perhaps we should be more lenient. We cannot take people’s dedication and efforts for granted and only focus on their flaws. Wanfei Wu is a second-year graduate integrated marketing communications student from Yunnan Province, China. Follow her on Twitter @WanfeiWu.

ILLINOIS,  
continued from page 2

will only make matters worse. Next, Quinn pushed for tighter gun control laws that show how little he really knows about policy. He called for the ban of sale and possession of “military-style assault weapons,” along with high-capacity magazines. If Quinn knew the military definition of assault weapons, he would know that these weapons are already banned. Quinn is likely wanting to ban semi-automatic weapons, which are firearms that chamber a new round after each trigger pull. These are not to be confused, although they often are by liberals, with automatic weapons

which shoot multiple rounds with each trigger pull. Semi-automatic weapons include most rifles, shotguns and revolvers manufactured and sold in America. The lack of understanding of basic definitions of firearms by liberals truly baffles me. However, Quinn does not stop there. He goes on to claim that Illinois must “ensure that guns are kept out of everyday public places because they don’t belong in our schools, shopping malls or sports stadiums.” He must have missed the fact that schools are

already gun-free by law. He also must have missed the fact that this law has done nothing to prevent school shootings. Apparently lawbreakers break laws. Who knew? Wanting the governor of a state to be intelligent is apparently too much to ask these days, though I doubt it is coincidental that the ones with the least understanding of business, economics and gun crimes are members of the Democratic Party. Trenton Winford is a public policy leadership junior from Madison.

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Private sports complex begins construction

A new sports complex presents athletic options for students and Oxford residents, potentially including lacrosse, soccer, baseball and football fields.

BY PETE PORTER  
tjporter@go.olemiss.edu

A privately owned and operated sports complex is closer to breaking ground since the Lafayette County Planning Commission approved a location off Highway 7 South last week. Property owners Chuck Trost and Michael Perry, who are awaiting the commission’s approval of their final plan, are currently waiting to receive a Mississippi Highway Department of Transportation construction permit along with approval from the Health Department for their plans to handle sewage. The proposed complex will include six international regulation soccer fields, practice fields and a Little League football field. Baseball and lacrosse fields are also possible additions. Although the complex’s target market is youth teams in the Oxford area, professor and certified health education specialist Jeffrey Hallam said he believes some University of Mississippi students will take advantage of the new complex. “I do not believe the

new facility is a threat to the Turner Center,” Hallam said. “I do not believe the intramural program will experience any decrease in participation. However, students may be attracted to the lacrosse fields and soccer fields.” Hallam also said, though, that he thinks the students who will use the new complex will be few in number. “UM students can use the intramural fields for their activities,” Hallam said. “While I believe the intramural fields are insufficient for the size of the university, I do not believe many students will opt to use the new complex.” Lacrosse player Nick Loverde expressed interest in the potential building of a lacrosse field, citing poor conditions of the university’s fields as the main reason. “If it’s nice field turf, then we would absolutely prefer that over the school fields,” said Nick Loverde, a senior economics major and four-year member of the lacrosse team. “The school fields are just a mess. They spend so much money to repair them, but they are never 100 percent.”

Law school launches forward

The University of Mississippi law school will become one of three programs in the world to offer a new degree in air and space law beginning this fall.

BY ERIC BENNETT  
etbennet@go.olemiss.edu

The University of Mississippi School of Law will begin offering a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in air and space law in fall 2013. Ole Miss will be the only university in the country to offer this advanced degree and one of only three such programs in the world. Any attorney who already holds a law degree will be eligible to apply for the program. Students in the program will take courses in comparative national space law, international space law, private international air, public international air law, U.S. aviation law and U.S. space law. The program adds to the law school’s rich history of expertise on space law since the mid-1960s, according to acting director Jacqueline Serrao. “One of the most important goals for the program is to offer top-notch education to attorneys and legal experts in the field,” Serrao said. “The LL.M. would give students advanced knowledge in the field of air and space that is very difficult to find anywhere else.” Attorneys who earn this degree will be able to work in highly specialized areas that include jobs within the FAA, NASA and other federal agencies, according to Serrao. The School of Law has offered classes in aviation and space law for a decade, and




Robert C. Khayat Law Center (FILE PHOTO) THOMAS GRAINING | The Daily Mississippian

it started offering a J.D.-level degree in remote sensing, air and space law in 2007. The new LL.M. degree will add to the School of Law’s efforts to lead the way in the field. “There is no other law school with the strength, depth and resources that we have in this arena,” said Richard Gershon, dean of the UM law school. Opportunities for select applicants include access to the law library’s extensive collection of air and space law materials and the Space Law Archive, a unique repository for records related to the development of air and space law. Other opportunities include the chance to join the Journal of Space Law’s editorial board or participate in the Manfred Lachs Moot Court Competition team. Attorneys accepted into the program can choose from on-campus or online venues, full time or part time. Interested parties must register with the LL.M. Credential Assembly Service and submit an application through the Law School Admission Council website. Applicants are required to submit a resume, English proficiency scores if a foreign applicant, transcripts, letters of recommendation, a thesis proposal and an application fee of \$50. The deadline to apply for admission to the fall 2013 entering class is April 30.

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# Online courses offer flexibility to students

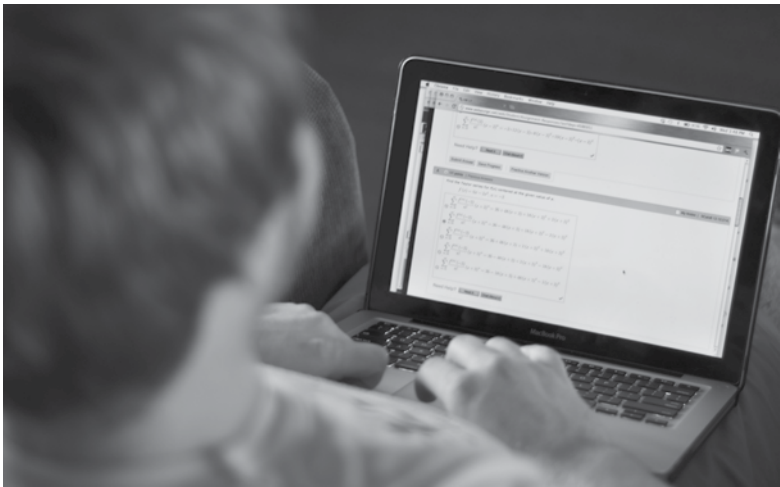
Online courses have become an attractive alternative to the on-campus classroom environment. Students can complete assignments at their leisure and go on with their busy everyday routines.

BY MAGGIE FRANKLIN  
mfrankl@go.olemiss.edu

Since the first Ole Miss online course was offered in 2001, online courses have become increasingly popular, particularly within the last five to 10 years, according to the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

For the 2013 spring semester, Ole Miss is offering 58 online courses from campus schools such as the School of Education, the School of Applied Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Journalism.

Although online courses do not require students to actually attend class on campus, most online courses do have at least one proctored exam during the semester. Some courses also include weekly online meetings or discussion boards. Those enrolled in the course must log in online and participate in group conversations through a program known as Angel or through their university Blackboard



FILE PHOTO | The Daily Mississippian

account. Online instructors are still available to their students through email or arranged in-person meetings, just as they would be available to students in a traditional class setting.

Sophomore hospital-ity management major Jillian Harris has a part-time job off campus, so the traditional course times offered did not fit into her schedule. An online course was the only option.

"It's hard because in the

classroom you are actually forced to pay attention," she said. "You're already sitting in class so you might as well make your time worthwhile."

She said online classes are more difficult.

"Your teacher posts podcasts, which can be anywhere from 10 minutes to 2 hours, and you have to force yourself to listen to them and really be an active listener," she said.

Anne Klingen, the director of Ole Miss Online, has the

same perspective on online courses.

"Online classes are harder for students that are used to being participants in the classroom and being fed by the instructor," Klingen said. "With online classes you must be very active and self-motivated. Most students aren't ready for that online model and tend to struggle at first."


Both part-time and full-time students make use of online courses.

"Many full-time students enjoy the flexibility of online, self-paced courses because they can schedule them

around their regular courses, and part-time students particularly may have difficulty fitting traditional courses into their schedules," said Rebekah Reysen, a learning specialist at the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

The cost of an Ole Miss Online course is the same as a traditional 3-hour course, with out-of-state tuition still applied. The Department of Financial Aid also states that students will be charged an additional \$33.33 per credit hour online course fee for each online course.





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Super Water Sympathy comes to Proud Larry’s

Super Water Sympathy is making a stop in Oxford tonight, bringing with it some “water pop” from Shreveport, La.



COURTESY SUPER WATER SYMPATHY

BY KIERAN DANIELSON  
kcdaniel@go.olemiss.edu

A “synthesis of classic symphonic ambience with modern rock’n’roll anthems” is how Super Water Sympathy describes its self-created genre, “water pop.” The band has grown as a live act since its two national tours and featured slot on last year’s Vans Warped Tour. Brothers Billy and Clyde Hargrove (bass and guitar, respectively), Ryan Robinson (drums), Jason Mills (keys)

and Ansley Hughes (vocals) formed Super Water Sympathy in 2010, and they hope the southern tour will complement their next album, “Hydrogen Child,” which is set to be released April 23. “‘Hydrogen Child’ is about the end of infinity,” Hughes said. This concept album is a product of the members sharing equal writing duties to form a collectively unique sound. “Although there are some songs that certain members

had heavier hands in, this album is a true band collaboration,” Clyde Hargrove said. “Every member of the band has written lyrics and music for this album.” The band has also lent its writing and production skills to B.o.B’s “Strange Clouds” with the track “Chandelier,” and its songs have received heavy rotation on the MTV series “Caged.” Local band Swampfoot will open the show, playing its improvised renditions of classic rock hits mixed with originals that really stick. The doors open at 8 p.m. tonight at Proud Larry’s. More information can be found on the band’s Facebook page and proudlarrys.com

‘It’s not a therapy, it’s entertainment’

BY CAMILLE MULLINS  
camillemullins@gmail.com

Ghostlight Repertory Theatre is getting students more involved in the performing arts on campus. The student-run organization started on campus last spring and has since gained community support from the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council at the Powerhouse and the Ole Miss theater department. It was named for the theater tradition of hanging a light on an unoccupied stage at night to keep the spirits of the theater happy. Actors are not the only members the group is open to. Ghostlight also provides opportunities for students to see what makes up a real theater company, like direction, writing, sound design, fashion design, stage management, set design and light design. Senior B.F.A. acting major and artistic director/Ghostlight president Adam Brooks explained why he got involved with the organization. “I felt compelled to help and get involved with Ghostlight because of the fact that each student here has a story, and performing arts is a great me-

dium,” Brooks said. “Theater, film, dance and music are great mediums to tell a story. “It is important that through those stories, they can find a way to communicate the things that they are trying to say. It’s not a therapy, it’s entertainment, but sometimes entertainment is therapy.” Because Ghostlight is student-run, there is more room for controversial or abstract ideas. It has already produced “The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged,” which was a very family-friendly show, and “Mother F---R with the Hat,” which was on the opposite end of the spectrum. Having the ability to find and explore those spectrums is why the organization was originally formed. “Last semester was a great semester for experimenting and seeing how minimally we could do a show, testing different waters,” Brooks said. Ghostlight encourages students to get involved by coming to the meetings on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in Meek Auditorium or attending workshops. Next season’s shows will be selected at the Feb. 19 meeting. To prepare for its April show, “Avenue Q,” Ghostlight will be holding a puppet-making workshop on Saturday, Feb. 9 and Sunday, Feb. 10. The students of Ghostlight encourage anyone to stop by the costume shop on the bottom floor of Isom and help the creative design process. Anyone who volunteers will be given credit in the “Avenue Q” program. “If you’ve got a story and you know it’s important, you know someone is going to get something out of what you have to say and someone is going to laugh about it, or someone is going to cry about it, or it is going to help someone understand something that they are going through, if it’s something philosophically universal or if it is just plain funny, whatever it is, even if you are involved in another area on campus, Ghostlight is the place for you,” Brooks said. “It’s your home if you want it to be.” Next Tuesday, Feb. 12, will be Ghostlight’s semester premiere. “Jailbait” will run Feb. 12-16 at 7:30 each night and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 17 in Meek Auditorium. There are no fees to become a member. Interested students simply fill out a membership application and turn it into the Ghostlight folder in Isom. For more more information, visit the website, ghostlightrep.org.

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# Ole Miss cruises past Mississippi State

Junior guard Marshall Henderson poured in 31 points and Murphy Holloway added 24 as Ole Miss blew out Mississippi State to end two-game losing skid. Rebels face Missouri Saturday on the road at noon on CBS.

BY TYLER BISCHOFF  
ffbischo@go.olemiss.edu

Ole Miss (18-4, 7-2 SEC) snapped its two-game losing streak with a 93-75 win over in-state rival Mississippi State (7-14, 2-7 SEC) Wednesday night.

"We needed to stop the bleeding," head coach Andy Kennedy said.

Ole Miss got big nights out of their two leading scorers, as both junior guard Marshall Henderson and senior forward Murphy Holloway surpassed their season averages on points, scoring 31 and 24, respectively. Henderson was 6-of-14 from three-point range and Holloway added eight rebounds.

Mississippi State scored the first basket of the game, but Ole Miss went on a 19-0 run and built an insurmountable lead.

Holloway spurred the early run, scoring 10 points in the first seven minutes

of the game. It took Mississippi State over 11 minutes to reach the 10-point mark. Ole Miss led 42-23 at half-time.

"I thought our approach was pretty good out of the gate," Kennedy said. "I thought we really defended early, made a couple shots and got an early lead."

Senior forward Reggie Buckner and sophomore point guard Jarvis Summers both eclipsed double digits with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

As a team, Ole Miss shot 50.8 percent from the field, their highest mark in five games.

The Rebels also shot 75 percent from the free throw line, which is their second-best mark in SEC play. The 93 points was the most Ole Miss has scored in conference play.

Mississippi State was led by freshman Craig Sword, who scored 17. Junior guard



AUSTIN MCAFFEE | The Daily Mississippian

Senior forward Murphy Holloway

Jalen Steele added 15, while freshman guard Fred Thomas had 13 points.

The Bulldogs outscored Ole Miss 52-51 in the second half, and Kennedy was not happy with his team's effort.

"The entire second half,

I just thought we had it in coast mode," Kennedy said. "Give Mississippi State credit, they kept fighting, kept attacking off the dribble."

With five blocks, Buckner surpassed Robert Horry of Alabama for sixth on the SEC all-time blocks list with 290. Buckner is now within 28 blocks of fifth place.

Kennedy picked up his 143rd win in his time at Ole Miss, moving him one win behind the all-time leader B.L. Graham.

The Rebels are now just one game behind SEC-leading Florida, which is 8-1 in the conference.

Ole Miss will travel to Missouri to take on the 21st-ranked Tigers on Saturday. That matchup is set for a noon start and will be televised on CBS.

*For continuing coverage of Ole Miss men's basketball, follow @Tyler\_RSR and @thedm\_sports on Twitter.*

## Player of the game



Marshall Henderson

31 points  
4 assists  
3 rebounds

## Stat of the game

Points off turnovers –  
UM 21, MSU 8

## Quote of the game

"We just tried to coast through the second half, which is a little disappointing for me."

– Andy Kennedy on giving up 52 second half points.

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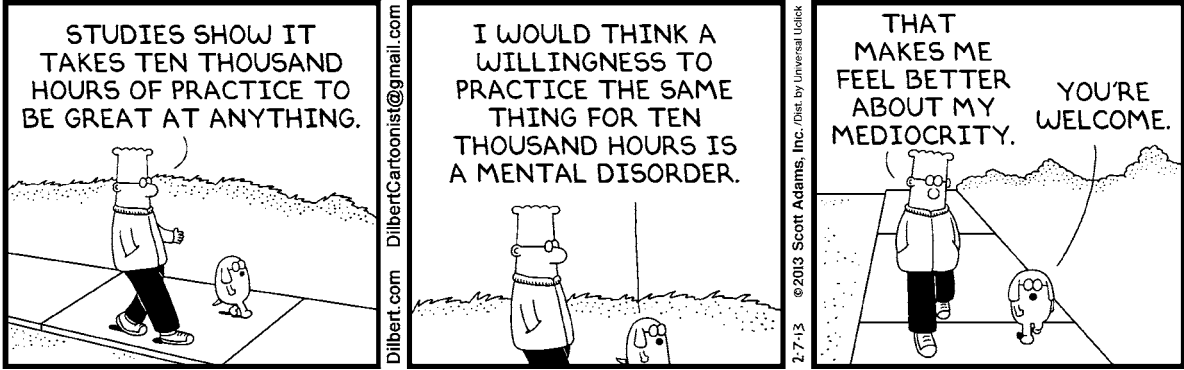
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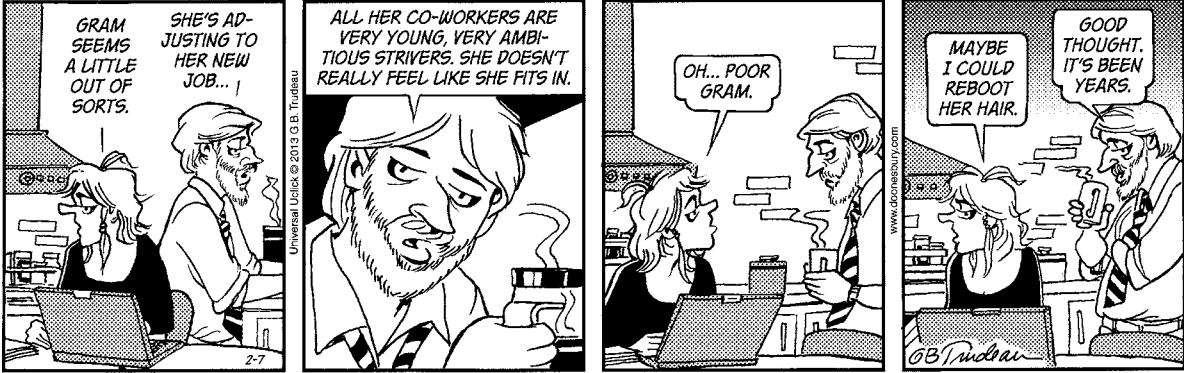
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NON SEQUITUR



DOONESBURY



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HOW TO PLAY  
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL  
**SUPER TOUGH**

6	7	5	1	4	6	2	8	3
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1	2	9	3	5	7	6	4	8

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ACROSS

1 Coming out  
6 Sari sporter  
10 Gizzard  
14 Puts on guard  
15 Ever's partner  
16 With us now  
17 Delete a file  
18 — to win it  
19 Peter Gunn's girl  
20 Threat ender  
21 Overly romantic, maybe (hyph.)  
23 From memory (2 wds.)  
25 Strong-arms  
26 Bad-mouth  
27 Host — Philbin  
29 Welded an axe  
32 Happen again  
33 Large amount  
36 Lemony  
37 Knight's weapon  
38 Layered cookie  
39 Keep fit  
40 "Ah Sin" playwright  
41 Book jacket ad  
42 Makes yawn  
43 "Get — of that junk!"  
44 Half of the biathlon  
47 Shrewd  
51 They're often rifled (2 wds.)  
54 Jumble

DOWN

1 Dork  
2 Far back in time  
3 Impudent  
4 Lying fallow  
5 Mao — -tung  
6 "Luck of the Draw" singer  
7 — Karenina  
8 Film —  
9 Conspiracy  
10 Twitters  
11 Change colors  
12 Movie mermaid  
13 Lawn spoilers  
21 Almost grads  
22 Giant slain by Odin  
24 Give alms  
27 Housing fees  
28 Livy's "Lo!"  
29 Mecca pilgrimage  
30 Environmental prefix  
31 Sham locks  
32 Hard to find

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

S	P	A	R	T	A	D	R	U	S	H	E	B
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33 Capote on Broadway  
34 Poet's contraction  
35 San Francisco hill  
37 Generosity  
38 Eastern hemisphere (2 wds.)  
40 Hagar's daughter  
41 Profile  
42 Sturgis visitors  
43 ER personnel

44 Extent  
45 Green-eyed Thai cat  
46 Ancient Greek colony  
47 Swedish currency  
48 Homer opus  
49 Sister's girl  
50 Errand runner  
52 Lower jaw  
53 Crazy captain  
57 Cum-laude stat

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Head coach Hugh Freeze

ALEX EDWARDS | The Daily Mississippian

## RECRUITING,

continued from page 1

they went about recruiting and building relationships over the course of a year and executing our 12-month plan, they were pretty flawless in most regards," Freeze said. "But also our players. I cannot give them enough credit. They sold our program."

"I've often believed and will say that if we can get a young man to campus, and they can see the beauty of Ole Miss, the passion of its people, the love that they all have for this great university, the fact that it has a rich tradition, is something we use in recruiting here."

Despite the rich history of the program, which includes six conference championships and three national titles, Ole Miss hasn't seen a lot of success in its recent history in regard to championships. Therefore, Freeze takes a different approach than most coaches when going after top targets.

"The biggest vision we have is to do something new and fresh and convince a group of young

men to come together and want to be different," Freeze said. "To do something different and fresh at a place that may not be the norm. That is what we went about in this recruiting class."

With Ole Miss' success in this year's recruiting class, the Rebels have received a great deal of national exposure.

Ole Miss was featured extensively in ESPN's recruiting coverage throughout the day, Freeze had an appearance on Fox News with Ole Miss alum Shepard Smith, and NBA star LeBron James even spoke out on Twitter about the Rebels' impressive recruiting class.

"Ole Miss ain't messing around today! Big time recruits coming in. SEC is crazy," James tweeted.

The exposure was certainly something to which Freeze paid attention, and he believes it could help him build more top classes in the years to come.

"I don't think you could go out and purchase the exposure we got today," Freeze said. "It is unbelievable. This class and the exposure that we received today is already helping us in 2014. It gives us some momentum. It gives us some validity, and now, we can use it to hopefully start building some relationships with some national guys. We can't go after an enormous amount, but we can go after some."

"They definitely heard about Ole Miss and probably are intrigued about what exactly is going on there and want to see it for themselves and hopefully

get to know us. If they get to know our staff, it kind of gets contagious that people want to play for these coaches."

Although the outcome of signing day was one for the ages for Ole Miss, the path to the end wasn't necessarily an easy one.

Freeze was forced to deal with numerous people, a good many over social media networks, questioning how Ole Miss, Freeze and his staff were recruiting and ultimately landing high-caliber recruits. Freeze said he was shocked to see such accusations of recruiting violations directed at him and the program.

"I was really shocked," Freeze said. "I know people have their own opinions and feel the freedom now in social media to voice that very freely, and I was shocked at how much it was."

A large part of the Rebels' success at landing top guys was the connections they had. Obviously, Nkemdiche is brothers with Ole Miss linebacker Denzel Treadwell went to the same high school as Rebel defensive back Anthony Standifer, while Wesley McGriff, who was the leading recruiter for Treadwell,

had a past friendship with Treadwell's high school coach.

"We had a plan, we executed our plan," Freeze said. "Obviously, we had some luck to have some ins to some of those, and I readily admit that, but we did it with integrity within our coaching staff."

Despite the criticism, Freeze believes that the class he is brought in this year has the potential to be something special – a program-changing type of class.

"Today was a hugely successful day," Freeze said. "And I do think it has the possibility of being a program changer. Obviously, it is all on paper right now. We'll start having to manage expectations right now because we will still be in our second year of our journey together, but I do think we took a huge step forward together today on that journey, and that is competing for an SEC West championship."

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss football, follow @SigNewton\_2 and @thedm\_sports on Twitter.

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# Five-star safety stays in-state

Antonio Conner was the fourth five-star signee for Ole Miss on National Signing Day Wednesday. Conner, a South Panola product, was considered the No. 2 safety in the country by multiple recruiting services.

BY JOHN LUKE McCORD  
mccordjohnluke@yahoo.com

Ole Miss was in the national spotlight for National Signing Day on Wednesday, as head coach Hugh Freeze reeled in the best-ranked class in school history, filled with big-name prospects. However, one of the highest-ranked recruits didn't come from too far away.

South Panola safety Antonio Conner signed his letter of intent to play for the Rebels next season, choosing Ole Miss over Alabama.

"It was a real great battle," Conner said. "Alabama and Ole Miss were my first two offers."

Conner, who is a five-star prospect according to Scout.com and 247Sports, is a part of what has been ranked the best recruiting class in the history of Ole Miss and could make an impact early in his career.

Freeze said they look at Conner to play the huskie position for the Rebel defense for the next few seasons.

"I think he's one of the best safeties to come out of high school in a long time," Freeze said. "He's so physical, so rangy, so fast. He's an immediate difference maker in what we do. We need our best athlete to play our huskie position, and we've identified him as that type of guy."

He joins a long line of talented players who star at South Panola and eventually go on to sign with Ole Miss. Conner said that he heard from many of those players about Ole Miss but that it did not have much of an impact on his decision.



AUSTIN McAFEE | The Daily Mississippian



COURTESY OF 247SPORTS



AUSTIN McAFEE | The Daily Mississippian

In addition to being hotly recruited by Ole Miss and personally by head coach Hugh Freeze, he was highly coveted by Alabama and Nick Saban.

"He was telling me that I might get early playing time over there," Conner said. "(But) I just think I had a better chance to get on the field in my home state."

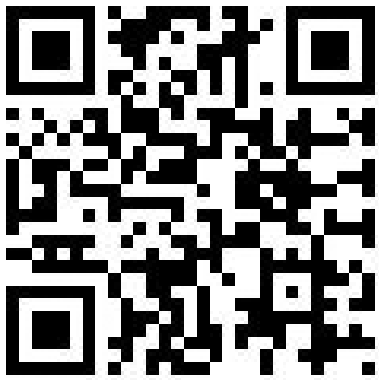
It was clear that Conner is proud to stay in his home state and that early playing time was one of the key factors in his recruitment. South Panola head coach Lance Pogue feels he can do just that.

"If there is a guy that's physically and mentally ready from a maturity standpoint to play early, he fits the bill," Pogue said. "He will make an impact early."

Conner feels that the class that Ole Miss signed can accomplish things at Ole Miss that most people would be afraid to admit.

"We're going to make it to the top," Conner said. "We're going to the BCS National Championship. We're fixing to put Mississippi on the map."

For continuing coverage of Ole Miss football, follow @JLgrindin and @thedm\_sports on Twitter.



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# 2013 OLE MISS RECRUITING CLASS

Below are the 26 of signees that make up the 2013 Ole Miss football recruiting class. The list does not include Nick Brassell and Anthony Alford, who did not sign a letter of intent, but are enrolled at Ole Miss for the spring semester. It does include the junior college and high school early enrollees. Each signee’s height, weight, hometown and previous school are given in addition to the star rankings from each of the four major recruiting services. The 247 Composite ranking is an average ranking between the four recruiting services.

DE ROBERT NKEMDICHE

6-foot-5, 260 pounds - Loganville, Ga. - Grayson HS

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

WR QUINCY ADEBOYEJO

6-foot-3, 175 pounds - Cedar Hill, Texas - Cedar Hill HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

S ANTONIO CONNER

6-foot-2, 200 pounds - Batesville, Miss. - South Panola HS

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

DT LAVON HOOKS

6-foot-4, 295 pounds - Booneville, Miss. - Northeast MS CC

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

QB DEVANTE KINCADE

6-foot-1, 185 pounds - Dallas, Texas - Skyline HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★

LB MARCUS ROBINSON

6-foot-4, 207 pounds - Memphis - East HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

WR TREY BLEDSOE

6-foot-2, 190 pounds - Grenada, Miss. - Grenada HS

247Sports	★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

RB MARK DODSON

5-foot-9, 175 pounds - Memphis - Whitehaven HS

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

TE A.J. JACKSON

6-foot-6, 239 pounds - Hampton, Ga. - Lovejoy HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

WR QUADARIUS MIRELES

5-foot-11, 180 pounds - Raymond, Miss. - Hinds CC

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

OLB RASHAWN SMITH

6-foot-3, 210 pounds - Florence, Ala. - Florence HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

OT DARONTE BOULDIN

6-foot-6, 310 pounds - Canton, Miss. - Canton Public HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

TE EVAN ENGRAM

6-foot-3, 210 pounds - Powder Springs, Ga. - Hillgrove HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

OT DAVION JOHNSON

6-foot-5, 315 pounds - Byhalia, Miss - Byhalia HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

DT HERBERT MOORE

6-foot-2, 180 pounds - Memphis - East HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

WR LAQUON TREADWELL

6-foot-3, 198 pounds - Crete, Ill. - Crete Monee HS

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

RB EUGENE BRAZLEY

5-foot-10, 175 pounds - New Orleans - Carver, G W, Senior HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

OL AUSTIN GOLSON

6-foot-6, 284 pounds - Prattville, Ala. - Prattville HS

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

WR DERRICK JONES

6-foot-2, 180 pounds - Eupora, Miss. - Eupora HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

RB KAILO MOORE

5-foot-10, 180 pounds - Rosedale, Miss. - West Bolivar HS

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

OT LAREMY TUNSIL

6-foot-6, 295 pounds - Lake City, Fla. - Columbia HS

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

QB RYAN BUCHANAN

6-foot-4, 210 pounds - Jackson, Miss. - Jackson Prep

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★

CB BOBBY HILL

6-foot-0, 165 pounds - Moultrie, Ga. - Colquitt County HS

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

DB DAVID KAMARA

5-foot-11, 185 pounds - Loganville, Ga. - Grayson HS

247Sports	★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★
247 Composite	★★★

TE CHRISTIAN MORGAN

6-foot-4, 255 pounds - Plano, Texas - Prestonwood Christian Academy

247Sports	★★★
ESPN	★★★
Rivals	★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★

RB JORDAN WILKINS

6-foot-1, 210 pounds - Cordova, Tenn. - St. Benedict at Auburndale

247Sports	★★★★★
ESPN	★★★★★
Rivals	★★★★★
Scout	★★★★★
247 Composite	★★★★★



# NKEMDICHE HEADLINES HISTORIC CLASS

The signing of Robert Nkemdiche, the nation's No. 1 recruit, highlighted the best recruiting class in Ole Miss history.



AUSTIN MILLER | The Daily Mississippian



PHOTO COURTESY GWINNETT DAILY POST

BY AUSTIN MILLER  
dmmanaging@gmail.com

LOGANVILLE, Ga. — In front of a national audience to kick off ESPN's coverage of National Signing Day, Robert Nkemdiche, the nation's consensus No. 1 prospect, signed his letter of intent to play for the University of Mississippi next season.

"The recruiting process has been long, but I have enjoyed it," Nkemdiche said live on ESPN Wednesday morning. "After much discussion and prayer, I have decided to attend the Ua niversity of Ole Miss."

A lot of factors played into Nkemdiche's choice of Ole Miss, which had long been the favorite for the 6-foot-5, 260-pound defensive end from Loganville, Ga.

"The fan base, the coaching, a team on the rise," Nkemdiche said of what put Ole Miss over the top. "They were a good

program to me, and I felt like a couple of different things could have changed the outcome of this season to three more wins, or four more wins."

Nkemdiche said he knew Ole Miss was the place for him on his official visit the weekend of Jan. 25, when he was joined by fellow five-star prospects safety Antonio Conner, wide receiver Laquon Treadwell and offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil, who all signed with the Rebels on Wednesday.

"I felt like it was (the right place) when I did my last official (visit) down there," he said. "I was just like, 'All these other guys coming with me. We have a chance to do some real special things, so let's go ahead and do it.'"

Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze called Nkemdiche the "crown jewel" of the recruiting class and is excited to see how quickly he can be a difference-maker for the Rebels.

"His skill set is way beyond

his years," Freeze said. "He is that talented, and he will be an immediate impact player for us here at Ole Miss. We're glad that Denzel is here and that their mom wanted them together."

He joins older brother Denzel, a member of the freshman All-SEC team and All-SEC second team, who led Ole Miss with 82 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, four forced fumbles and three interceptions from his linebacker position.

"The feeling right now is unreal," Denzel said of Robert joining him at Ole Miss. "It's really hard to explain. I'm glad it's over. I wanted him to make the right decision that he wanted to make, and I wanted to him to feel comfortable with the decision he made because it's going to be where he's going to be for the next three years."

As a high school junior, Robert Nkemdiche recorded 78 tackles, 36 tackles for loss and 18 sacks in leading Grayson High School in Loganville, Ga., to a state championship. He followed up with 59 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and five sacks in his senior season.



AUSTIN MILLER | The Daily Mississippian

TOP LEFT: Sunday Nkemdiche; Robert Nkemdiche, consensus number one prospect in the nation; and Beverly Nkemdiche; BOTTOM: Robert Nkemdiche, consensus number one prospect in the nation.

"After he didn't put up the type of numbers we expected during the regular season, I think we were all prepared to drop Nkemdiche from the No. 1 spot if he didn't turn in a great week at (the) Under Armour (All-America Game)," said Woody Womack, Rivals.com Southeast recruiting analyst.

"But from the first rep of the first practice, it was clear that

he was the best player on the field. Physically, he's just at a different level in terms of size, and the speed and explosiveness that he has off the line to go with, it made him a nightmare matchup for offensive linemen all week."

Ole Miss defensive backs coach Wesley McGriff, who was the lead recruiter for Nkemdiche, described him not only as a game changer, but a program changer. Ole Miss defensive line coach Chris Kiffin, who also recruited him, agreed.

"We're just so excited about his upside," Kiffin said of Nkemdiche in his commentary on OleMissSports.com. "He's a dominant player. He's going to come in and compete for a starting spot from day one. He's a projected first-round pick already."

"And now, it's my job to get him ready and get him to that next level, but right now, he's coming in here to impact this team and help us build a championship defense."

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2013

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